

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0156981****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc. - Reconstruction of the Salmon Viewing Deck at the Eagle River Nature Center

Project Sponsor(s):**House District: 14 / G****FY2022 State Funding Request: \$200,000****One-Time Need****Brief Project Description:**

Reconstruction of the iconic 300 ft long Salmon Viewing Deck at the Eagle River Nature Center in Eagle River, AK. 2018 earthquake damage, aging, and forces of erosion have severely impacted the piers and decking of the platform which spans a spring-fed creek with views of the Eagle River Valley.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$732,550
Funding Already Secured:	(\$22,337)
FY2022 State Funding Request:	(\$200,000)
Project Deficit:	\$510,213

Funding Details:

DNR, Alaska State Parks, Design & Construction has received funding from FEMA for design of approximately a third of the overall total length of the deck. (February 2021, \$50,200) They are awaiting confirmation from FEMA for the distribution of \$284,000 for construction cost of that section of deck affected by the November 30, 2018 earthquake. (Expected in 2021)

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Friends of Eagle River Nature Center (FERNC) has managed the Eagle River Nature Center since 1996 as a non-profit under a concession contract with Alaska State Parks within Chugach State Park. Besides operating and maintaining the Nature Center visitor facility, FERNC also maintain trail boardwalks and viewing platforms, some of which were built by the State prior to the operational transfer to FERNC. The largest and most visited observation deck under FERNC's management is the iconic Salmon Viewing Deck which provides scenic views of the Eagle River Valley. It also serves as a platform for observing the annual salmon return in the spring-fed creek which it spans. The creek and surrounding wetlands are rich in plant and animal life, including but not limited to moose, bear, aquatic birds, fish and organisms. This diverse and healthy ecosystem attracts visitors from around the world and serves as an in-demand teaching location for our state's students.

The Salmon Viewing Deck was built by Chugach State Park maintenance staff in the 1980's after the park transformed an

old lodge to its first visitor center, centrally located within its half million acres. Under the Park's management, the Rodak Nature Trail was built and subsequently the Salmon Viewing Deck. It is composed of 3 sections of boardwalk spanning over 300 lineal feet with 2 access points. It culminates at a wider viewing node with seating benches and there is an interpretive panel about the life cycle of salmon along one of its lengths. Since assuming operation of the Center and its grounds, FERNC volunteers and staff have maintained and repaired the deck as issues arose. Broken boards and railings were replaced regularly, decking was sanded and stained numerous times, and piers were repaired. The most significant repairs occurred in 2004-05. The forces of weather and change to the water flow due to increased beaver activity, caused many of the wooden piers to be dislocated from their foundations. With nominal funding and the help of volunteers with expertise, FERNC refurbished dozens of the crib foundations and readjusted the piers. FERNC also used streambank erosion techniques to mitigate the water flow issues causing many of the problems.

On November 30, 2018, Alaska suffered a 7.0 magnitude earthquake which resulted in exceptional damage to buildings in Eagle River. The Salmon Viewing Deck, too, was damaged at this time. The Division of Natural Resources, AK State Parks, Design and Construction (D&C) staff recorded the visible damage during a December inspection with FEMA personnel. D&C staff documented the damage and applied for funding for the design and replacement of about one third of the total length of the deck. Soon after, FERNC received funding from a small grant to evaluate soil conditions at the deck so that a recommendation could be made on how best to address the salmon deck's continued lifespan. Sustainability and ease of maintenance has been of paramount importance to FERNC. The geotechnical engineers that provided the final report after two, 20-foot deep soil bore samples had been taken and tested, concluded that helical steel piles would provide the longest lasting supports. FERNC submitted this report to D&C, afterwards which they submitted an addendum to FEMA to consider replacing the wooden piers with steel helical piles in anticipation of future climate events. Steel piles would withstand the fluctuations in environmental conditions, severe occurrences such as earthquakes, and alleviate the constant issue of extreme temperature changes causing ground upheaval. At this time, D&C has obtained funding from FEMA for the design portion of 1/3 of the total deck. They are awaiting word from FEMA on what construction funding will be allotted and if it will include the cost of steel piles. This option amounts to an estimated cost of \$250,000 with another \$430,000 needed to reconstruct the entirety of the deck. This is the amount FERNC proposes to raise in 2021-22 so that the entire deck can be rebuilt in 2022.

Since the D&C and FEMA partnership will result in the reconstruction of 1/3 of the Salmon Viewing Deck, FERNC feels it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to help build the remaining two thirds of the deck. FERNC will raise matching funds to achieve this and is actively pursuing partnerships with other foundations and agencies, as well as launching a fundraising campaign in April 2021 to encourage individuals and small businesses to join this effort. The Salmon Viewing Deck is an iconic destination for both Alaska's citizens and tourists to the state. The view from the deck has been photographed thousands if not millions of times over its history. Tens of thousands of students have received instruction on this deck, oftentimes watching the salmon spawn below them or other wildlife in the distance. The view inspires awe and wonder. Noted 19th century geologist Walter Mendenhall, upon seeing the Eagle River Valley for the first time, called it "Little Yosemite" for its grandeur and natural beauty.

FERNC was founded with the intent of assisting Alaska State Parks to manage and maintain 10 miles of trails and grounds when budget shortfalls prevented them from doing so. 2021 marks 25 years that

FERNC has served our local communities (which include Anchorage, Eagle River, MatSu) and our wider community. Our volunteers, board members, and small staff have accomplished much, and often on a shoestring budget. The Salmon Viewing Deck reconstruction deserves the State's support so that it will continue to be a location that inspires people for decades to come. It is undeserving of continued "band aid" repairs if we all wish it to represent what is most stunning about Alaska.

Project Timeline:

March-July 2021: Design of reconstructed Salmon Viewing Deck by DNR, Office of Design & Construction.

August-December 2021: Bidding process and contract award for construction by DNR, Office of Design & Construction.

March-May 2022: Helical pile installation, timing to avoid impact on salmon by selected contractor.

June-December 2022: Construction of boardwalk, platform, railings, interpretive panels and seating by contractor.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

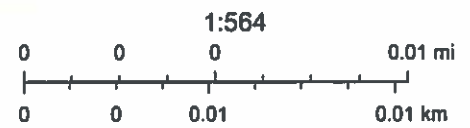
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

MOA - Area Information



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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

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**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**



**ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE
CSP: Eagle River Nature Center
Viewing Deck Improvements
Project No. 7xxxx-x**

BASIC BID

ITEM NO.	ITEM	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
202(1)	Removal of Structures and Obstructions	L.S.	\$10,000.00	All Req'd	\$5,000.00
505(6)	Drive Structural Steel Pile	Each	\$1,000.00	120	\$120,000.00
505(12)	Furnish Helical Pile	L.F.	\$75.00	2,400	\$180,000.00
640(1)	Mobilization and Demobilization	L.S.	\$15,000.00	All Req'd	\$15,000.00
641(1)	Erosion, Sediment, and Pollution Control Administra	L.S.	\$5,000.00	All Req'd	\$5,000.00
641(2)	Temporary Erosion, Sediment, and Pollution Control	C.S.	\$2,000.00	All Req'd	\$2,000.00
641(6)	ESCP Price Adjustment	C.S.	\$0.00	All Req'd	\$0.00
642(1)	Construction Surveying	L.S.	\$10,000.00	All Req'd	\$10,000.00
642(3)	Three Person Survey Party	Hour	\$250.00	5	\$1,250.00
643(3)	Traffic Maintenance	L.S.	\$1,000.00	All Req'd	\$1,000.00
647(6)	Hydraulic Excavator, 1 CY, 100HP Minimum	Hour	\$250.00	5	\$1,250.00
650(12A)	Boardwalk	S.F.	\$75.00	2,150	\$161,250.00
BASIC BID (BB) TOTAL					\$501,750.00
PROJECT CONTINGENCY (PC, 15% OF BB)					\$75,300.00
DESIGN SERVICES (DS, 10% OF BB)					\$50,200.00
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION (CA, 12% OF BB)					\$60,300.00
INTERP AND EDUCATION (IE, \$7.5k/PANEL @ 6 PANELS)					\$45,000.00
PROJECT TOTAL (BB + PC + DS + CA + IE)					\$732,550.00

Prepared By: R. Miranda
Date: April 22, 2020

Checked By: _____

